

Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel

PIRT MEETING SUMMARY

MARCH 16, 2006

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TOWN CENTER ONE, 101 ISRAEL ROAD SE, ROOM 337
TUMWATER, WASHINGTON**

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Maryanne Guichard, Chair | Department of Health | (360) 236-3391 |
| Lucy Harter, Coordinator | Department of Health | (360) 236-3356 |
| Allan Felsot | Washington State University | (509) 372-7365 |
| Steven Gilbert | Practicing Toxicologist | (206) 527-0926 |
| Matthew Keifer | University of Washington | (206) 616-1452 |
| Maria Victoria Peeler | Department of Ecology | (360) 407-6704 |
| Karen Ripley | Department of Natural Resources | (360) 902-1691 |
| William Robertson | Washington Poison Center | (206) 517-2356 |
| Gabrielle Toutonghi | Department of Labor and Industries | (360) 902-5478 |
| Ann Wick | Department of Agriculture | (360) 902-2051 |

MEMBERS ABSENT:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Alice Larson | General Public | (206) 463-9000 |
| Dorothy Tibbetts | Department of Health | (360) 236-3361 |
| Vacant | Department of Fish & Wildlife | |

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Karl Arne | EPA Region 10 | (206) 553-2576 |
| Leslie Emerick | Department of Health | (360) 236-4046 |
| Cheryl Hanks | Department of Health | (360) 236-3365 |
| Heather Hansen | Friends of Farms and Forests | (360) 705-2040 |
| Barbara Morrissey | DOH Alternate for Dorothy Tibbetts | (360) 236-3368 |
| Lezlie Perrin | Department of Labor and Industries | (360) 902-5425 |

PIRT Review Panel Activities

Maryanne Guichard called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved as revised. The February 16, 2006 PIRT meeting summary was approved as distributed. However, incorrect information has been identified concerning ChE monitoring. A correction to the February summary will be presented for approval at the April meeting.

Status of Bills of Interest to PIRT at the end of the 2006 Legislative Session

Bills that did not pass included:

- House Bill 1388, limiting the use of high hazard pesticides at school facilities
- House Bill 1863, requiring substitution of less toxic substances or alternative practices where available

- House Bill 2611, revising provisions relating to pesticide application notification of pesticide-sensitive individuals
- Senate Bill 6607, requiring notification of certain pesticide applications.

Bills that passed included:

- Bill ESB 5381 authorizing creation of an independent, non-profit Washington Academy of Sciences. For more information on the bill see:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5381&year=2006>
- Bill ESSB 5385 creating a Washington Invasive Species council passed. Of interest to PIRT as invasive species are often controlled with pesticides. For more information see:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5385&year=2006>

2006 Action Recommendations

The Panel reviewed the current draft of the 2006 Action Recommendations and adopted all recommendations except number 4, recommendations to EPA on the Worker Protection Standard. Number 4 will be revised and distributed to the panel for final approval.

Agenda Topics for June PIRT Panel Meeting in Yakima

The Panel discussed possible agenda items for the June 15, 2006 PIRT meeting in Yakima. Panel agency members will ask their representatives east of the mountains for agenda suggestions. PIRT stakeholders (grower associations, farmworker advocates and medical clinics) will also be contacted for recommendations. Four confirmed agenda topics approved by the Panel, to date, are a presentation on EPA's Strategic Agriculture Initiative (SAI) including a grower who has implemented SAI practices, DOH year one results of a study on preventable causes of farmworker illnesses, and clarification of WSDA and L&I roles in the administration of the Worker Protection Standard and a discussion of the ChE Monitoring Rule.

Draft Letter to L&I concerning Cholinesterase Monitoring

The Panel expressed concern about whether ChE depression data will continue to be available when the three year evaluation period for the Cholinesterase (ChE) Monitoring Rule and the L&I Focus Study ends in September 2006.

Currently, DOH Public Health Laboratory provides test results for ChE specimens in the weekly Cholinesterase Monitoring Data System (CMDS) report. When L&I contracts with a new laboratory to process ChE specimens in 2007, L&I will require the ability to provide the same data.

After 2006, when the ChE Rule will be supported through L&I WISHA' compliance and consultation services, employers will be required to do workplace evaluations but this information will not be systematically collected or retained. The work site inspection data currently collected by the L&I Focus Study will also not be available (e.g. equipment used and any violations that may have contributed to increased exposure). L&I will not conduct follow-up investigations on ChE depressions. The Stakeholder and Scientific Committees will be discontinued after 2006.

Other concerns expressed by the Panel include the tracking of declinations (exposed workers who decline to be tested), whether information will continue to be collected on the number of hours the person with a ChE depression worked, whether workers are currently receiving the results of their tests and whether they will in the future.

The Panel reviewed a draft letter to L&I in support of continuing the collection of work site information. Barb Morrissey will lead a sub-committee in rewriting the letter. The committee will present the letter to the Panel for comment at the April PIRT meeting.

PIRT Policies and Procedures

After discussion of PIRT's current decision-making procedures for providing letters of support for grant proposals and member agency activities, the Panel agreed to formalize the procedures in a written policy. The policy will include guidelines for making recommendations to member agencies and the legislature as well as for letters of support. The policy will also include procedures for recruiting public member applicants to the Panel, recommendations for revision of the PIRT RCW, and other Panel activities. DOH will draft a policy for discussion at the April PIRT meeting.

Panel Decision-Making Process

The Panel discussed the decision-making processes of voting and consensus for conducting Panel business. Information on consensus and on decision-making tools used by non-profit organizations will be sent to Panel members for further discussion at the April 20, 2006 PIRT meeting. An issue to be addressed is that the Panel sometimes runs out of time before consensus is reached. Prior to the end of the meeting, those present must make clear whether the discussion will continue through email, wait until the next meeting, or a vote will be taken by email or at the next meeting.

Science Corner

Organic Diets Significantly Lower Children's Dietary Exposure to Organophosphorus Pesticides

The Panel agreed that this intervention study has implications for future research of children's exposures to organophosphates (OPs). The study focused on specific OPs that are water soluble and quickly metabolized. Testing for OPs that are liposoluble would have shown different results. The Panel discussed whether the findings could be used for other pathway studies. The Panel also discussed the ethics of monitoring studies where children are exposed to potentially hazardous substances without intervention or education on the hazards.

EPA's Strategic Agriculture Initiative – Karl Arne, EPA Region 10

The Strategic Agriculture Initiative (SAI) is designed to help agricultural producers transition from high risk pesticides restricted under EPA's Food Quality Protection Act. The SAI mission is to support and promote environmentally sound agricultural and pest management practices that are economically viable and socially responsible. The program includes a grant program targeting the needs of underserved growers and provides funding for on-farm research and demonstration projects. For more information, the web site for SAI is www.aftresearch.org/sai/.

Agency Updates

Agriculture

Carol Ramsey reports that the Orchard Sprayer Critique Day has been moved to March 31, 2006 in Cashmere. Practical suggestions for reducing drift will be presented.

Ann Wick attended the spring meeting of the Association of American Pest Control Operators (AAPCO), March 5-6, 2006 in Virginia. A sample of the topics addressed at the meeting include pesticide labeling, endangered species, pesticide container recycling, worker safety issues, mold problems after Hurricane Katrina and avian influenza.

Ecology

Maria Victoria Peeler has been busy responding to requests from the Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) and preparing GMAPS as required by Governor Gregoire. GMAPS coordinate data and present performance measures for an agency or a subject. Prevention of pesticide releases in Puget Sound is one of the GMAP performance measures. Maria directed PSAT staff to PIRT reports on the DOH web site for 5-year trend data on pesticide-related events. The Water Quality Program has had more activity regarding aquatic pesticides permits. Maria will provide details at the next PIRT meeting.

Health

When the information on illness incidence in schools came out in JAMA last summer, DOH put together Washington school illness incidence data for 2000-2004 and put it on DOH Pesticide Program (What's New) Web page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Pest/pest-school.htm>. The article in the [July 2005 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association \(JAMA\)](#) highlights problems that children and school staff can experience when pesticides are used at or near schools. The Web site also recommends using IPM in schools and what to do if there is a pesticide spill.

The DOH Pesticide Program is gearing up for the investigation season. Traditionally the number of reported cases starts increasing in April; 70% of non-agriculture and 80% of agriculture cases are reported between April and September.

Pesticide Program Staff are working on the NIOSH grant to dig deeper into root cause of reported illnesses. They are getting some interesting preliminary results. The first year work will evaluate three things:

- how well our current coding captures preventable causes
- how information currently collected in interviews can be coded better to track preventable causes
- what else do we need to collect?

In a preliminary look at 2004 cases, failure to wear required PPE was the biggest factor identified. DOH would like to present the Year One findings at the PIRT meeting in Yakima.

Labor and Industries

The Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Advisory Board's second annual Agriculture Safety Day on March 1, 2006 attracted approximately 350 participants. Cholinesterase testing for 2006 began in February. The WISHA Regional Directive (WRD) provides guidance and direction on WISHA Rules. The WRD pertaining to the ChE Monitoring Rule has been rewritten.

Allan Felsot - Washington State University

Allan Felsot reported that the PNASH Center at the UW is doing *exposure monitoring* in association with *cholinesterase depression monitoring* for a group of orchard applicators in Franklin County. As of March 16, 2006, baseline urine samples were collected for 36 workers. Additional samples will be collected from the workers during the dormant spray period. This research is focusing on the pesticide Lorsban.

Public Comments

During the Panel discussion on PIRT policies, Heather Hansen, Friends of Farms and Forests, agreed that formal, written policies and procedures for providing letters of support to researchers would be beneficial. She also noted growers' concern that PIRT sends letters to the legislature or to PIRT member agencies regarding agriculture without soliciting growers' input.

Heather reported that WSDA received legislative funding to support pesticide container recycling. The Biologically Intensive and Organic farming (BIO-Ag) program of the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at the WSU Prosser facility received one year funding (\$800,000) for AG Weather Net. Growers use weather monitoring data to refine spraying by determining when insect populations are likely to change and disease will appear.

Parking at the Town Center Buildings is difficult for guests. Heather requested that PIRT provide instructions for using the Town Center parking lot and garage.

Karl Arne, EPA Region 10, was asked if he thought that Sustainable Agriculture Initiative information should be included in the PIRT Annual Report. He noted that SAI is only one of many programs providing funding for integrated pest management (IPM) projects and it would be hard to write up all of them. An option would be to reference web sites for IPM programs in the Annual Report.

Future Meetings

The next PIRT meeting will be on April 20, 2006 at the Public Health Laboratory in Seattle. Please note that the time for all future PIRT meetings has changed. Meetings will be three hours long, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location of Future Meetings

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150th Street, Room S4. Olympia area meetings will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

April 20, 2006 – Public Health Lab

May 18, 2006 – Department of Health

June 15, 2006 – Yakima at WSDA

July 20, 2006 – Public Health Lab

August – No meeting

September 21, 2006 – Department of Health

October 19, 2006 – Public Health Lab

November 16, 2006 – Department of Health

December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.